

ultramedian band of ovular spots commencing just below the costa and reaching to the submedian nervure, that portion of it which is opposite the cell being placed further outwards towards the apex. A dark anteciliary line followed by a row of minute dark lunules inwardly bordered with sordid white. Hind wing: several irregular spots near the base and along the anal margin, and beyond these an irregular much broken band of spots commencing on the costa, becoming divided on the disc, and angled to the anal margin. A dark anteciliary line and shades as in fore wing. There are three deep black marginal spots (the centre spot being the largest) supporting metallic-blue scales and ringed with pale orange situated in the three anal nervular interspaces. Cilia of both wings grey.

Palpi black above, clothed with black and white hairs below. Thorax and abdomen below more or less clothed with whitish hairs.

When examined with a glass the whole surface of both wings below appears to be suffused with sordid white scales.

♀.—Upperside: fore wing bright blue, with the costa, apex, and outer margin blackish brown. Hind wing blackish brown, slightly paler along the costal edge; the basal third bright blue. Three dark marginal spots in the anal interspaces crowned with bright blue. Cilia of both wings brown, paler towards apex of hind wing.

Underside as ♂, but ground-colour darker and spots more prominent.

Expanse, ♂ ♀,  $1\frac{1}{3}$  inch.

*Hab.* Mauritius.

Types, ♂ ♀, coll. Manders. Co-types in B.M.

Also in coll. Druce, presented by Lieut.-Col. Manders.

The species is without tails.

Lieut.-Col. Manders writes that it flies all the year round, except in the coldest weather, there being a succession of broods. He did not find it in the Island of Réunion.

XXXV.—*On an Extinct undescribed Fruit-Bat of the Genus Pteropus from the Mascarenes.* By GEO. E. MASON.

A CURSORY survey of the small island known as La Ronde, laying about 15 miles north-east of Mauritius, was made a year ago by a South African syndicate interested in the guano trade, and on the face of a deep-wooded gorge situated in the central part of the island numerous fissures were met with containing a superficial deposit of red earth, from

which a member of the survey collected and transmitted to me the specimens forming the subject of this communication. The material consists of a skull, the right and left femur, and portion of the humerus, all of which can most certainly be attributed to the same individual, and they clearly indicate a very characteristic and hitherto unrecorded species of frugivorous bat of the genus *Pteropus*, which has, however, now ceased to exist on the island, neither does it occur on any other of the Mascarene Islands. Associated with the remains were also found the bones of tortoises, birds, and introduced animals, the presence of these latter, which are referable to the goat (*Capra hircus*) and rabbit (*Lepus cuniculus*), being of particular interest and affording reliable data by which we may, with every degree of certainty, assign the age of the deposit to a period succeeding the advent of man in the island. Contemporary with *Didus*, *Pezophaps*, and other members of the then existing fauna of the Mascarenes, this bat must have long survived those forms, lingering on until a comparatively recent period, the state of preservation and general condition of the remains under discussion strongly bearing out this hypothesis. In seeking for a possible cause for its extinction it is perhaps, in this case, more reasonable to assign the chief weight to those changes in the conditions affecting a due and plentiful supply of the soft fruits and berries so essential for the sustenance of these voracious creatures, brought about by a series of dry or tempestuous seasons unduly prolonged, as the means of subsistence within the very restricted area of the island, even under most favoured influences, must have been very limited, rather than to the direct agency of man, which we know has been instrumental in bringing about the varied physical transitions and concomitant changes in the endemic animal life of the whole Mascarene group of islands as known to us at the present day.

For this interesting species I propose the name of

*Pteropus mascarinus*, sp. n.

*Skull*.—With moderately long but heavy muzzle, flattened and scarcely concave frontal region. Sagittal crest weakly developed, almost obsolete.

*Measurements*.—A few of the measurements can only be given approximately owing to the damaged condition of the specimen:—

Upper length (approximate) 49 mm.; condylo-basal length (approximate) 46; basilar length (approximate) 41; median palate length 28; breadth between outer sides of canines 9·8, inside canines 4·3; outside p. 4 13·8, inside p. 4 8; outside

m. 2 13, inside m. 2 9·2; zygomatic breadth (approximate) 27; least interorbital breadth 7·8; the dimensions of the structure behind postorbital process cannot be taken; greatest breadth of brain-case 15; occipital depth 11; mandible 40·6; maxillary tooth-row exclusive of incisors (alveoli) 20·1; mandibular tooth-row exclusive of incisors (alveoli) 22·3.

*Teeth.*—With the longitudinal grooving characteristic of the genus *Pteropus*, very strongly developed, somewhat large and heavy for the size of the animal; canines long and sharp, both above and below, with unusually acute and prominent postero-internal basal ledges, those of the maxillary in particular; first upper premolars very minute, but would have been still persistent in the type and standing in the tooth-row.

*Measurements.*—The sizes of the upper incisors and second upper molars are omitted, as these teeth are wanting in the specimen. Vertical length of upper canine 7·5 mm.; horizontal length of upper canine 3·5; horizontal length of p. 3 3·8, width 2·3; horizontal length of p. 4 3·8, width 3; horizontal length of m. 1 4·1, width 2·1. Lower teeth—combined breadth of incisors —?; height of canine (from basal ledge behind) 5; horizontal length of anterior premolar 2; of p. 3 3·8, width 2·1; horizontal length of p. 4 3·5; of m. 1 4·3, width 2; horizontal length of penultimate molar 3, width 1·8; horizontal length of m. 3 1·5, width 1·4.

*Locality.*—Round Island, North-east Mauritius.

As compared with the now existing *Pteropi* of the Mascarenes, this species occupies a place intermediate between *Pteropus vampyrus* and *Pt. rodricensis*, in size only, the dentition being typical of *Pteropus*, whereas the two above species fall into the subgenus *Spectrum*. The only other fruit-bat occurring in the Mascarenes is *Pt. rubricollis*, and this has been placed by Matschie in his subgenus *Sericonycteris*. A great analogy, in fact, exists between the dentition of *Pt. mascarinus* and those species of *Pteropus* (*tonganus*, *Gouldii*, and *conspicillatus*) inhabiting Australia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

The limb-bones call for no special description, the most perfect specimen being the right femur, which measures 40 mm.

Since the above was written a few additional bones referable to this new species, and representing two younger individuals, have been received. Their fragmentary condition has, however, failed to add any additional particulars to the above description of this interesting and lost species.